

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19004 151621Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 /133 W
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, QA, EG
SUBJ: NEWS REPORT PRESIDENT SADAT WILL RAISE QATTARA
- DEPRESSION PROJECT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER

1. CAIRO DAILY AKHBAR AL-YOM REPORTS IN FRONT PAGE
ARTICLE AUGUST 12 IT HAS "LEARNED" THAT PRESIDENT SADAT
WILL PRESENT PRESIDENT CARTER WITH RESULTS OF RECENT
STUDIES CONCERNING QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT TO GENERATE
ELECTRIC POWER. ARTICLE FURTHER NOTES THAT IF PRESIDENT
CARTER APPROVES FINAL REPORTS, U.S. WILL DELIVER TO EGYPT
THE "350 NUCLEAR DEVICES" NEEDED FOR BLASTING A CANAL
CONNECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH DEPRESSION.

2. WHILE JUXTAPOSED WITH STORIES ON FORTHCOMING CAMP
DAVID SUMMIT, ARTICLE DOES NOT STATE WHEN OR BY WHAT
MEANS ISSUE WOULD BE RAISED BY SADAT.

3. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, NUCLEAR COMPONENT OF
QATTARA DEPRESSION SCHEME HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BY GOE WITH
US OFF AND ON FOR SEVERAL YEARS. EACH TIME SUBJECT HAS
BEEN RAISED, USG HAS RESPONDED THAT PLOWSHARE ARRANGEMENTS
ARE NO LONGER FEASIBLE (OR OF INTEREST) IN USG VIEW DUE TO
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LIKELIHOOD OF CONTRAVENING LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY
PROHIBITIONS ON FALLOUT OVER INTERNATIONAL BORDERS. GOE
HAS RESPONDED LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY PERHAPS SHOULD BE
MODIFIED, BUT THAT IS AS FAR AS DIALOGUE HAS GONE.

4. RECENT DISCUSSIONS OF DOE TEAM AND EMBOFFS WITH GOE
MINELECTRICITY OFFICIALS REGARDING CURRENT AND FUTURE

EGYPTIAN ENERGY PLANS HAVE NOT DEALT SUBSTANTIVELY WITH QATTARA PROJECT OTHER THAN IN VERY GENERAL NON-NUCLEAR TERMS. GOE HAS NOT RPT NOT IN THAT SETTING AGAIN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN USG SUPPORT FOR OR DETAILED TALKS ON LONG-PENDING PROJECT, WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED BY EGYPTIAN AND WEST GERMAN TECHNICAL EXPERTS. LATTER, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, HAVE ALREADY CONCLUDED USE OF NUCLEAR DEVICES WOULD BE UNECONOMIC IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, QUITE ASIDE FROM SENSITIVITIES THAT WOULD BE AROUSED BY SUCH EXCAVATION METHOD. EILTS

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